their individual constituents in accordance with the secrecy and fidelity that is maintained about their clients and as is provided by law.

Trade with USSR

7036. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have assessed the impact of the recent changes in the USSR on the trade with that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present exchange rate of rupee and rouble;

(d) whether it is at par with the exchange rates of rupee-dollar and dollar-rouble; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to develop trade with USSR in a realistic Rupee-Rouble equation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Government is closely monitoring the swiftly changing development in the USSR and its impact on the Indo-USSR trade.

(c) According to the latest information available from the Reserve Bank of India, the Rupee-Rouble exchange rate as on 5.9.91 is Rs. 30.8390 = Rouble 1.

(d) and (e). It is difficult to compare to rupee-rouble exchange rate with the exchange rates of rupee-dollar and dollar-rouble because the rouble is not a quoted convertible currency in world exchange markets. Indo-Soviet trade is in non-convertible Indian Rupees. As on 5.9.1991 the Dollar-Rupee Exchange rate was 1US$ - Rs.26.08. The official exchange rate of the rouble as on 2.9.91 was US $ 1 = Rouble 0.5936.

[*Translation*]

U.S.A. Visit of Chief of Army Staff

7037. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of the Army Staff visited U.S.A. in the third week of August, 1991;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of the visit; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHANKUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of the COAS to the USA was a goodwill visit undertaken in response to an invitation from the Chief of Staff of the US Army. Similar reciprocal visits are undertaken with a number of other countries also.

(c) The visit provided an opportunity to exchange views on various issues of mutual interest, including prospects of closer Defence Cooperation between the two countries.

[*English*]

Electoral Rolls

7038. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is always a difference between the population and electoral rolls whenever these are revised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any State Government has made efforts to compare to electoral rolls with the last census figures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaints have been received by the Government regarding non-inclusion of names of voters in the voters in the voters lists; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to arrange for a thorough check of the electoral rolls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Electoral rolls contains only that part of the total population which is eligible to vote.

(c) and (d) The Government is not aware of such efforts being made by any State Government.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls is vested in the Election Commission and not in the Government under article 324 or the Constitution of India. The Registration of Electoral Rules, 1960 make detailed provisions for preparation and revision of rolls is done at the beginning of every year and wide publicity is given about the programme of revision of rolls through mass media and other means and every possible effort is made by the the Election Commission to ensure that all eligible voters are enrolled.

Confiscated Opium

7039 SHRI MAHESH ANODIA:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of confiscated opium with the Union Government as on August 31, 1991;

(b) the time by which it will be disposed of; and

(c) the purposes for which it will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Confiscated opium is transferred by drug law enforcement agencies to the Government Opium & Alkaloid Works Undertakings located at Neemuch (MP) or Ghazipur (UP) for being captively utilised for manufacture of alkaloids as and when required or for destruction, if not found suitable for this purpose. Approximately 7500 kgs. of much opium was in stock in the two Government Opium & Alkaloid Works Undertakings at Ghazipur (UP) and Neemuch (MP) as on 31.8.1991. According to the programme of these two undertakings, the above quantity of confiscated opium will be disposed of by 31st Mach, 1992.

[*Translation*]

Loans to Sick Textile Units

7040. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to grant loans at 11.5% per cent rate of interest to the sick textile units;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the names of such sick units to whom